REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I.   Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-10 and 17-31 are currently pending in the application. This Amendment amends claims 1, 3-5, 8, 19, 22, 25 and 27, further cancels claim 2, and addresses each point of rejection raised by the Examiner.

The amended claim language finds support in the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II.   Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 25-28, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hosoda (Patent No. 7,020,839). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

"[A]n invention is anticipated if the same device, including all the claim limitations, is shown in a single prior art reference. Every element of the claimed invention must be literally present, arranged as in the claim. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the patent claim." MPEP § 2131.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections because Hosoda does not disclose, suggest, or anticipate each and every feature of amended claims 25 and 27. In particular, Applicant submits that, at the least, Hosoda fails to anticipate that an XSL style sheet includes a rule that implements a single-path tree.

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention disclose that an instruction node gains access to a node that is a part of an input tree, being an XML document, when processing an XPath expression. Based on the "rule", a new result tree is created as a single-path tree according to the processing of another instruction node.

A thorough review of Hosoda reveals no such disclosure of a XSL style sheet that implements a single-path tree rule.

Therefore, at the least, Hosoda fails to anticipate a XSL style sheet that implements a single-path tree rule. Dependent claims 26, 28, 30 and 31 are distinguished from Hosoda at least for the reasons given above by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 25 and 27.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 25-28, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

III.   Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-7 and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoda in view of Berenson et al. (Pub. No. U.S. 2003/0131355).

Claims 8, 9 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoda, in view of Sulistio et al. (Patent No. U.S. 7,237,191).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoda in view of Sulistio further in view on Bennington (Pub.No. U.S. 2004/0168188).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection in light to the amended claim language. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections because Hosoda does not disclose, suggest, or anticipate each and every feature of amended claims 1, 4, 8 and 19. In particular, Applicant submits that, at the least, Hosoda fails to anticipate that an XSL style sheet includes a rule that implements a single-path tree.

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention disclose that an instruction node gains access to a node that is a part of an input tree, being an XML document, when processing an XPath expression. Based on the "rule", a new result tree is created as a single-path tree according to the processing of another instruction node.

A thorough review of Hosoda reveals no such disclosure of a XSL style sheet that implements a single-path tree rule. Moreover, Berenson, Sulistio, and Bennington all fail to cure the deficiencies of Hosoda with respect to the amended claim feature.

Therefore, at the least, the combination of the cited prior art fails to render obvious the recited claim feature of a XSL style sheet that implements a single-path tree rule. Nor would there be any apparent reason to combine Hosoda, Berenson, Sulistio, and Bennington.
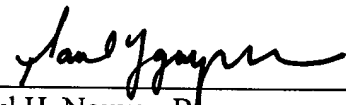
Dependent claims 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 20-24 and 29 are distinguished from the cited prior art at least for the reasons given above by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 1, 4, 8, 19 and 27.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 3-10, 17-24 and 29.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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